



OSF HEALTHCARE

December 18, 2017

Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
c/o Courtney Avery, Administrator
525 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, IL 62761

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HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Re: Project Number (17-051)
Letter of Support for the OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Cancer Center

As the Radiation Oncologist at OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony's Health Center, Cancer Center of Excellence, I am grateful for the opportunity to provide comment in support of this project. I have been a part of OSF Saint Anthony's family since 2004 and am proud to serve the residents of the Riverbend community with high quality cancer care!

This project will create a comprehensive, integrated set of services for cancer patients in one location. Often cancer patients must travel to various locations, offices, and facilities in order to receive all of their treatments, check-ups and tests. Currently, the OSF Cancer Center in Alton is located on the Saint Clare's campus, a mile and a half from the main campus of OSF Saint Anthony's. Patients may have to travel back and forth for various specialties and diagnostics. While this is common in cancer treatments centers throughout the United States, it is not ideal for the patient. The fragmentation of cancer services creates anxiety and confusion for patients. As a physician helping people fight cancer, I want my patients to use ALL of their energy for getting better, not in navigating the health care system. We have made strides in easing the way of our patients at OSF, and the new cancer center will significantly impact the lives of our cancer patients for this reason.

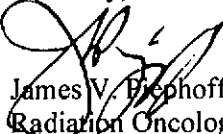
Furthermore, having the cancer center connected to the main hospital building will allow the numerous professionals involved in the care of our patients to collaborate much more closely and effectively. We will be able to conduct face to face conferences and coordinated patient visits, thus resulting in more coordinated and personalized care for the patients. In addition, the location of the new cancer center will facilitate immediate access to emergency services in the unlikely event they are necessary.

Finally, as the technology in cancer treatment continues to advance, the new cancer center will provide the latest in technology and position our services for continued advancements in cancer treatment.

The 2017 Cancer in Illinois report produced by Illinois Department of Public Health tells us that every day in Illinois 183 people are diagnosed with cancer, and 67 people die from cancer. Those statistics astound me and remind me why I have devoted my life to this service. In 2018, it is projected Madison County will have one of the highest number of new cancer diagnoses, at 1,655, of all Illinois Counties. It is the second highest when excluding Cook and Collar Counties, which have significantly higher populations. This further shows the need for high quality cancer services in our region.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions regarding this

Sincerely,


James V. Drepchhoff
Radiation Oncologist